

DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP

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A magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the ,
old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers

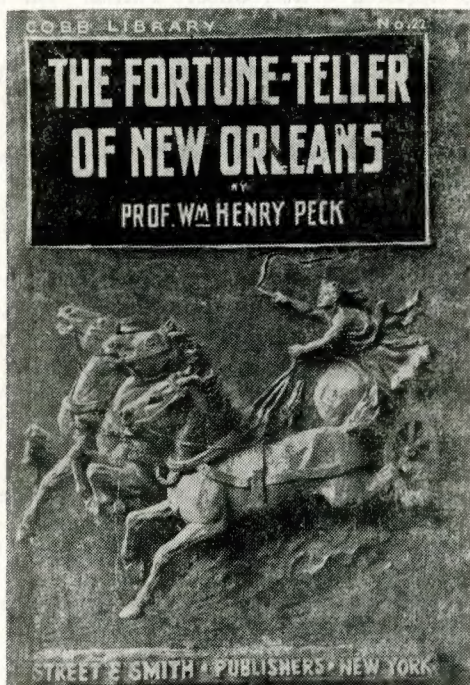
Vol. 55 No. 1

February 1986

Whole No. 577

The Frank Merriwell Saga

By Edward T. LeBlanc



DIME NOVEL SKETCHES #217

COBB LIBRARY

Publisher: Street and Smith, 238 William St., New York. Issues: 23 (highest number seen advertised). Dates: March 2, 1904 to Nov. 23, 1904. Schedule: Weekly for first 9 issues and then bi-weekly. Price: 10c. Size: 7½x4¾". Pages: 200. Illustrations: Designed cover in one color. Contents: The first 18 were stories by Sylvanus Cobb, Jr., the last by William Henry Peck. Stories were originally published in the New York Ledger,

The Frank Merriwell Saga

By Edward T. LeBlanc

Hardly a day goes by during the baseball or football season when the name of Frank Merriwell is not used by a sports columnist or sportscaster in describing a spectacular play. Recently Doug Flutie of Boston College was compared to Merriwell by a sports columnist in describing his long completed pass in the last seconds of play to win a game. Larry Bird was compared to Merriwell when in two consecutive games, his last second basket won for the Celtics. Howard Cosell, Curt Gowdy and many others bring up Merriwell's name in similar game winning situations. To most readers and listeners the name is synonymous with a winning touchdown in the last seconds of a game or a home run in the last of the ninth which provides the winning margin. But who was Frank Merriwell; why has the name become legendary. Only a real old timer can come up with a correct answer, and in most cases it is a hazy remembrance.

Frank Merriwell was born during a conference between Street & Smith editors and a newly acquired writer, Gilbert Patten. The editors wanted a hero to rival the British Jack Harkaway who at the time was having fabulous sales in both the British Empire and America. Gilbert Patten was a writer of considerable experience having written dime novels for Beadle and more recently for Norman Munro. The result of the conference was the appearance of a new series called TIP TOP WEEKLY. The story title was FRANK MERRIWELL; OR, FIRST DAYS AT FARDALE. It was dated April 6, 1896. Of the significance was the fact that the weekly had a colored cover, a new innovation in the 5c dime novel world. The weekly became an instant success. Patten followed the general theme of the Jack Harkaway stories as demanded by the editors. Frank attended Fardale Military Academy for a school year in the first 12 issues of the weekly, and then he began a tour of the United States and the world keeping up his studies under the tutelage of one of the Fardale professors who accompanied him on his travels.

Jack Harkaway first appeared in the pages of BOYS OF ENGLAND during 1869 in a serial titled JACK HARKAWAY'S SCHOOLDAYS. Bracebridge Hemyng, the author, became an overnight celebrity. Immediately upon completion, the story was issued in penny numbers, and the bound in pictorial covers and sold for a shilling. New stories continued to appear in the Boys of England. They were reprinted, as had the first, in penny numbers and paper bound volumes. These reprintings continued into the early 1900's. Edwin J. Brett, the publisher, made a fortune on the stories. Frank Leslie, an American publisher, lured Hemyng to America where he continued writing Jack Harkaway stories. Brett was incensed but could do nothing about it.

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He vowed to issue all stories anonymously from that moment on, and he did. This was the days before international copyright laws and the British stories were reprinted in America by a number of publishers, Norman Munro, Frank Tousey, and Street & Smith. Street & Smith, in fact, continued reprinting the stories until 1933.

Gilbert Patten began writing dime novels for Beadle in 1886 and continued until 1894 when he submitted manuscripts to Norman L. Munro's Golden Hours. His stories came to the attention of Orman Smith of Street & Smith and the publishers soon arranged a conference where they suggested his writing a series about an American Jack Harkaway. The series started using the general theme of the Jack Harkaway stories, school adventures followed by adventures in foreign lands and then attendance at college. Jack Harkaway attended Oxford, Frank Merriwell attended Yale where he excelled in sports. From then on Patten departed from the Harkaway theme and Merriwell was on his own. The series lasted 850 weekly issues. A dilemma was encountered when Frank graduated from Yale. How could the series continue with an aging hero. A brother was ingeniously invented and Dick Merriwell followed in Frank's footsteps attending both Fardale and Yale. Frank was not forgotten however as the readers would have no part of having Frank dropped. He bought a mine which proved hard to hold because of desperadoes, and this provided a whole series of adventures. He did some ranching and finally founded a school of his own where he guided students in athletics as well as academics. It would appear that with the graduation of Dick from Yale the series was bound to end, but not so. Frank had a son. What could be better than have follow in his dad's footsteps.

In order to gulf the gap in ages, Frank Merriwell, Jr.'s adventures were recounted in NEW TIP TOP WEEKLY. This weekly lasted 136 issues and included further adventures of Frank, Sr. and Dick Merriwell as well as Frank, Jr. With the general demise of dime novels, the publishers changed to a pulp format and continued the Merriwell stories in Tip Top Semi-Monthly and Wide Awake Magazine. Stories about the Merriwells continued into the 20's with appearances in Sport Stories Magazine, Top Notch Magazine and Fame and Fortune Magazine. Daily comic strips appeared in syndication in numerous daily newspapers written by Jack Kofoed following the story line of the original stories. A number of Broadway plays were attempted but failed to make it beyond opening night. A movie serial was produced during the 1930's.

However, the early stories were kept in print by reprinting in paperback form, three weekly issues to one paperback. These first appeared in the Medal and New Medal Libraries which in addition to the Merriwell stories featured boys books of a general nature including stories by Alger, Ellis, Optic, Henty and other noted juvenile writers. The stories were again reprinted beginning in 1917 in the Merriwell Series which completed the stories in 245 issues. The stories were again reprinted, this time using the series name BURT L. STANDISH LIBRARY, later changed to MERRIWELL LIBRARY. After 76 issues Street & Smith finally ended their dime novel publications and along with Nick Carter and Buffalo Bill, Frank Merriwell was laid to rest in June of 1933. For 37 years Merriwell had been constantly in print. Now they are collectors items. They are not overly rare, except for the early issues, having had a large sale and avidly collected. Yale University has several sets in their libraries which were donated by proud alumni. A complete set is also at the University of Minnesota and probably at other university libraries.

What made Frank Merriwell so popular with his readers was his ability to win against all odds. He was "Superman" without the costume. Readers

could easily identify with him and envision taking part in his adventures. Frank and his circle of friends and enemies became acquaintances. Readers could predict the reaction of characters in almost any situation, and this made them comfortable.

In the first issue Frank steps off the train at Fardale village and immediately takes the part of a newsboy whose dog has been kicked by another aspiring Fardale student. When the boy, Tad Jones, attempts to defend his dog, he is roughly handled by Bart Hodge. Frank steps in and knocks Hodge down. Hodge vows vengeance. By the end of the school year Hodge and Frank have become friends. Frank believed in fair play in all things and in thwarting Bart's schemes, he always left an opening for reconciliation and never pressed for the humiliation of his adversary. This was a recurring theme throughout the stories, though some enemies proved incorrigible.

Frank's mother had died a few years before; his father was out west somewhere. His uncle was his guardian and he provided that Frank should pursue his studies while traveling. He believed probably correctly, that travel would be of great value. So after a year at Fardale Frank sets out with one of the professors as tutor on a tour of the United States and the world. He fights a bull in Spain; is buried to his neck by renegade gauchos in Argentina; is shipwrecked on a desert island; is captured by thugs in India; discovers a gold mine in Mexico only to have it destroyed by a volcanic eruption. All in all he has had an adventurous life when he enters Yale. Here his adventures are of a tamer sort. He runs for the winning touchdown in the Princeton game. During the summer vacation he and his college chums, Harry Rattleton, Bruce Browning, and Jack Diamond cross the continent on bicycles. The bicycle was king during the late 90's. Back to Yale for another term. The next summer vacation is spent in Maine. On his return to Yale he is informed that his uncle, through bad investments, has lost all his money and that he is penniless. He goes to work on a railroad at the lowest step of the ladder, as an engine wiper. He rises to engineer of the crack express, but during a strike he joins a traveling road show. He soon becomes a leading man and when the show becomes stranded, he takes charge and under his management the show becomes a success. He writes a play and produces it and makes a fortune. Once again independently rich he reenters Yale and completes his education. During this time there are two girls in his life, Inza Burrage, a dark haired girl from Fardale village and Elsie Bellwood, a blonde who he rescued from a sinking ship during a storm off Fardale. He has a difficult time determining which one he really loves. Chance takes over. Hodge and Elsie are trapped aboard a burning yacht. Both declare their love for each other as the end nears. However, Frank rescues them causing an awkward situation for a number of issues. Frank finally proposes to Inza. The controversy as to who Frank should marry had raged in the Applause Column. Readers wrote long letters on why he should marry one over the other. Elsie seemed to have more adherents, and when Bart chose Elsie, leaving Frank with Inza, some of the writers were outraged, declaring they had read their last Tip Top Weekly. But they were soon reconciled to the fact and most remained avid readers.

At this time Frank solves the mystery of his father. His father, in company with a partner, had discovered a rich gold mine. The partner proved false and entombed him in the mine and left him to die. Charles Merriwell made his way out of the mine, but came out mad and with a loss of memory. Frank discovers that he has a half brother who had been left in care of an old Indian. Old Joe Crowfoot. He tames the wild spirit of his brother and

takes him on a tour of the United States playing baseball. Dick becomes as prolific a pitcher as was Frank. He enters Fardale, graduates with honors and enters Yale, following in Frank's footsteps. Frank invests in a mining venture and finds he has to fight to hold the mines from unscrupulous business men and desperadoes. His adventures provide a counterpoint to Dick's adventures at Fardale alternating every month or so from Dick to Frank. During the summer vacations both Dick and Frank team up for sport excursions. One year they are named the Independent Baseball Champions of America. This was earned by playing and defeating the Boston Red Sox. At other times they had defeated such professional teams as the New York Highlanders (Yankees) and the Chicago Colts.

At about this time Frank settled in Bloomfield, probably located in central New York state, and started a school of athletic development. Hodge also settled there and became one of his instructors. There were many adventures with problem boys who came to the school. Frank managed to solve all of them, and the boy was able to graduate and make his way in the world. A ranch was bought in Wyoming and part of the school was moved there in summer to provide a healthy environment for the boys. It also provided a backdrop for western adventures.

Dick graduates from Yale and goes adventuring in Central and South America. The series closes with Dick at the Olympics in Stockholm.

Frank, Jr. is introduced in New Tip Top Weekly and he has numerous sport adventures before entering Fardale. However there is a change. Patten is no longer writing the stories. He had a falling out with the editors over the use of his pseudonym, Burt L. Standish. New Tip Top Weekly continues for almost three years and both Frank and Dick are brought back but the old zip is gone. A few notes: Frank during his years at Yale had developed his famous pitch, the double-shoot. The ball curved first one way and then the other. With this pitch he became a phenom and in tight situations he used to strike out opposing batters. The pitch was tough on his wrist and could not be used on a continuing basis. Dick had a pitch that rose and then dropped which he could reverse to a drop that ended in rising.

NEW MEMBERS

- 350 Timothy W. Ware, 50 Walker Ave., Lincoln, R. I. 02865
- 351 William M. Leutz, Jr., P. O. Box 1098, Lincolnton, N. C. 28092
- 352 Russell Friedman, 27 Strathmore Lane, Westport, Conn. 06880
- 353 Arthur Sherman, 2332 Wind River Road, El Cajon, Calif. 92020
- 354 Jean C. Masteller, Dept. of English, Whitman College, Walla Walla, Wash. 99362
- 355 Charles P. Fisk, Box 67, Blairsden, Calif. 96103

NEW ADDRESSES

- 228 Steven Woolfolk, 4775 Mountain Valley Rd., Las Vegas, Nev. 89121
- 259 Irene Gurman, 3548 N. E. 18th Ave., Oakland Park, Fla. 33334-5336
- 50 Dan Adams, 1538 Yale, Santa Monica, Calif. 90404
- 178 John J. McArdle, 2008 Ft. Harrods Drive, Lexington, Ky. 40513
- 139 Louis Bodnar, Jr., 3125 Hungarian Road, Virginia Beach, Va. 23457

THE CASE OF THE PURLOINED IMAGE

By Stanley A. Pachon

When the weekly story papers and the nickel and dime novels caught the reading interest of the general public, and when more and more publishers turned to this type of fiction, there began a fierce competition among them to gain the attention of readers to their publications. So when an author created a character which caught the public's interest, the original publisher had many imitators not all so successful, but still the original publishers felt threatened and in many cases took his rivals to court.

One of the strangest cases in such an area to come up in court was that of Munro versus Street and Smith in 1890. This is given verbatim as reported in the Federal Reporter in Vol. 42 Pages 266-267:

MUNRO V. SMITH et al

(Circuit Court, S. D. New York May 5, 1890)

COPYRIGHT-INFRINGEMENT-FRONTISPIECE

The copyright of complainant's pamphlets and magazines containing pictures of "Old Sleuth" are not infringed by defendants' books having a picture of "Old Sleuth, the Detective" on the cover; the variations being sufficient to make the pictures very different.

In Equity. For infringement of copyright

Roger Foster, for plaintiff

Archibald L. Sessions, for defendants

SHIPMAN, J. This is a bill in equity which is founded upon the alleged infringement of a copyright. The complainant is the publisher of a series of stories called the "Old Sleuth Library," and purporting to be written by "Old Sleuth." Each story is published separately in pamphlet form, and upon the cover is a picture of "Old Sleuth" a detective, in large, old-fashioned clothes, with full, bushy beard, spectacles, fob chain, and baggy umbrella. Each number of the series is copyrighted. The complainant has also published a magazine called "The Fireside Companion," each number of which is copyrighted. In the number issued January 7, 1884, he commenced the publication of a story called "Old Sleuth in Philadelphia," the first page of which contained a similar picture of the detective. Since the date of the plaintiff's copyright, the defendants have been the publishers of a series of stories called, upon the cover of each volume, "The Secret Service Stories of Old Sleuth and Others," and two or more of them are also represented upon the cover to be written by "Old Sleuth." There is also a picture of "Old Sleuth, the Detective," upon the cover. All these stories, both of the plaintiff and defendants, are written by the same person, one of whose assumed names is "Old Sleuth." The complainant's bill is so drawn as to allege that he had a copyright in the pamphlet or magazine, and also in the print. It is manifest from the certificates of the librarian of congress that the several pamphlets and magazines containing the picture were copyrighted, but that there was no separate copyright in the engraving or print or cut. The picture was part of the book, and the theory of the complainant is that this copyright was infringed by copying, publishing, and selling copies of this part of the book. I shall assume that this theory is correct, and that, when a defendant republishes an original picture or illustration owned by the complainant, and contained in a book or magazine upon which he has a valid copyright, such right is infringed. The only question in this case is in regard to infringement. The complainant brought a bill in equity against the defendants, before the supreme court for the state of New York, for an injunction against the use of the picture or

the phrase "Old Sleuth, the Detective," or the word "Sleuth," upon the ground that the several words and devices were the complainant's trade-mark. The supreme court held, at trial term (1 N. Y. Supp. 313) that the complainant was not entitled to the exclusive use of the name, but that the picture was his trade-mark. The court, at general term, (8 N. Y. Supp. 671) reversed the judgment, and held that there was no trade-mark in the picture. It is thus obvious that the idea which first presented itself to the complainant's counsel, as it is also the first which would naturally present itself to any one, without a knowledge of the facts on both sides, was the question was one relating to trade-marks, and it is necessary to dissociate from the case the ideas which belong to trade-mark cases. If the name "Old Sleuth," was a trade-mark belonging to the complainant, the whole representation upon the cover of the defendants' book would be easily held to be unlawful use of the trade-mark, and, in connection with the use of the words and names, a court might not improperly be led to enjoin against the use of a picture purporting to be a picture of "Old Sleuth." But there is no trade-mark feature in the case, and the question simply is whether the later picture, taken by itself, is a copy or was borrowed from, or is an imitation more or less close of, the complainant's picture, or is a colorable variation therefrom, so as to be an infringement. That the defendants got the idea from the plaintiff of having a picture to represent the common hero of all the stories, an apparently old countryman, dressed in an old-fashioned garb and style, and having a shrewd face is, probably true. But the two pictures are dissimilar. The attitude, the general expression, and the general appearance of the two figures are unlike, and not only unlike, but very different. The variations are more than colorable. The defendants' picture is not an imitation, but their designer took the plaintiff's idea and worked it out in a different way. I do not find an infringement and the bill should be dismissed.

The Bowling Green University Popular Press, Bowling Green, Ohio 43403 has issued two new books of interest to detective story collectors:

PRIVATE EYES, 101 KNIGHTS. A Survey of American Detective Fiction, 1922-1984, by Robert A. Baker and Michael T. Nietzel. \$29.50 in cloth, \$17.95 in paper.

THE BOYS FROM GROVE AVENUE. Ed McBain's 87th Precinct Novels, by George N. Dove. \$17.95 cloth, \$7.95 paper.

A conference of juvenile series fiction is being planned by Richard L. Pope to be held at Corning, N. Y., The Corning Hilton Inn, June 8-14, 1986. Mr. Pope is putting together an extensive program which should satisfy every collector's interest. Included in the themes being considered are Boys and Girls Series Books, Western Series Books, Tom Swift and other science-fiction and aviation series including dime novels. A session is planned for the various book collecting societies including the Horatio Alger Society, Oz, James Willard Schultz, Thornton Burgess and others. Sounds like a major event.

FOR SALE

Issues #297, 308, 337, 352, 363. The Liberty Boys of '76 Weekly.

Very Good condition considering age.

All for \$40.00 including postage.

Eddie Forbess, 508 North Union St., Natchez, Miss. 39120

THE TRIGGER BERG SERIES

BL LEO EDWARDS

By Joseph A. Ruttar

Leo Edwards, my favorite author, is widely known for his Jerry Todd books and, to a lesser extent, the Poppy Ott, Trigger Berg, Andy Blake and Tuffy Bean series. The Trigger Berg books, the subject of this article, were written for a younger age set than the Jerry Todds and the Poppy Otts, but I enjoy reading them as well as the others whenever I want a slight change of pace. I must confess, though, while reading my first Trigger Berg novel, I had a mental block which would not permit any other group of boys usurping my Jerry Todd's number one rank. However, once I got going, I found myself laughing and totally absorbed in the book.

The four Trigger Berg books, copyrighted from 1930 to 1933, were written in a diary format. There is a table of contents listing the chapters; each in turn serving as a grouping for several of the chronological entries. The entries start out in typical diary language, nevertheless it isn't long before the story line unfolds with a great deal of quoted conversation. A bit unusual for this type of presentation in my opinion. The aforementioned remark is not intended as criticism, but only a reference to the author's style.

The adventures of Trigger Berg take place in the small town (having only 2 doctors) of Crockettville, Illinois and, as in the Jerry Todd stories, the number four repeats as the make-up of the gang. Naturally, the first introduction is Trigger whose real name is Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Berg. Then, we have Ronald Fish, nicknamed Friday, because on Friday you always get fish, followed by John Beale, alias Slat, you guessed it, because he's so skinny. Rounding out the quartet is Robert Beale, Slat's kid brother, going by the name of Tail Light, so dubbed due to his always lagging behind. Consequently, we encounter the enemy headed by Tony Crooker.

The first half of Trigger Berg and the Treasure Tree, the initial book, is comprised of short stories which recount the putting together of a neighborhood circus, earning a reward for the rib-tickling of a peg-legged crook and the settling of a family squabble due to the Civil War. The second half locale is on an island across from cousin Ted's lake-shore farm. The plot revolves around solving a ghost mystery, a greedy relative's attempt to swindle the owner out of some choice island real estate and the discovery of the treasure tree itself.

Book number two, Trigger Berg and His 700 Mousetraps, has the gang involved in a get rich scheme by placing mousetraps in houses and charging for the number of mice and rats caught. The Crockettville Sanitary Rat Killer Co. soon fizzles, bringing about hilarious attempts to dispose of the mouse-traps. Another endeavor, selling frog legs, provides pages of laughter. Cousin Egbert, the city slicker, arrives on the scene and becomes the boys' dupe in a pirate's sunken treasure plot and a candidate for an initiation that backfires into a merry mess.

The next novel is entitled Trigger Berg and the Sacred Pig. Randall Lewis and his nurse aunt move into a relative's old mansion in Crockettville that is reputed to be haunted by the former owner and his pig. Mystery is furnished by the discovery of a skeleton in the basement and a small pig, in a basket with a note, abandoned on the porch of the house. The fun really begins when the local detention hospital for contagious diseases burns down and Aunt Polly turns the mansion into a "pest" house with the guests being

Trigger and his pals and the Crooker gang, all infected with the Sailor's Itch.

The fourth book is about Ada Clarkey who moves back into the old Vett house, so named after her brother whose life's work was the fabrication of a light ray to make ghosts visible. Her deceased husband was noted for his efforts in exposing psychics which caused an attempt at revenge by a thwarted spiritualist. The events that follow multiply to an exciting conclusion. The title of the story refers to a contraption made up by the gang to get even with the enemy.

In the final paragraph of the fourth book there is a comment about a future diary, but no mention of a forthcoming title to substantiate it.

SOME PUZZLING ALGER TRIVIA

By Stanley A. Pachon

In the matter of the "Disagreeable Woman," supposedly written by Alger, the late Prof. Enslin expressed great skepticism that this was Alger's work, but he also conceded that there could be a remote possibility that this could be by Alger, and I agreed with him.

G. W. Dillingham and Co. was reorganized in 1896 and had quite a history of changes. It was founded by George W. (Washington) Carleton under the name of Rudd and Carleton. This was changed to G. W. Carleton in 1859 and in 1869 it had become G. W. Carleton and Co. G. W. Dillingham who was in the firm from 1866 succeeded Carleton and the firm became G. W. Dillingham and then in 1896 it was reorganized as G. W. Dillingham and Co.

It was in 1895 that this firm published this controversial title, and as the records show it was copyrighted by Dillingham and the author given as Julian Starr. From 1896 to 1901 the Dillingham catalogues carried this title by Julian Starr as in print, but in 1901 their catalogues under the same title has "blossomed" out with Horatio Alger as the author! This was carried in their catalogues until it was dropped in 1908.

One can only speculate about this title. It is indeed strange that a firm which needed "name" authors to bolster their sales should hide it under the name Julian Starr for five years. When Alger passed away, lo and behold it was then that his name appears in the catalogue. If one was a suspicious person one could surmise that someone in the firm sought to capitalize on Alger's name knowing that there was no one to dispute them since Alger was no longer around to contradict the fact. Unfortunately too many years have elapsed to be able to arrive at the truth.

LETTERS

Dear Mr. LeBlanc,

I'm writing you a few lines to let you know that I had to change my address. I was in the hospital for about 10 days, then the doctor told me that I should go into a nursing home, where they would take care of me. It would be too much work and worry for my sister to try to take care of me and her husband at the same time. So, my sister and I decided that I should go into a nursing home. They give me 3 meals a day, give me pills, laxative, take my blood pressure, check my pulse, give me a bath, etc. I have a private room, bathroom. I'm writing this letter in the "nursing home."

I decided to sell my 35 year old house that I built in 1951 with the help

of my two brothers. I lived in this house ever since 1951. My old house hasn't been sold yet. I came into this nursing home a few days before Christmas 1985. My sister's address is my new mailing address. My sister will bring my mail to me when she comes to see me.

My best wishes to you, yours truly,

Louis Bodnar, Jr.

P.S. I will be 73 years old this March 1, 1986.

NOTE: Mr. Bodnar's new address is 3125 Hungarian Road, Virginia Beach Va. 23457.

Dear Eddie,

Readers of the ROUNDUP might be interested to know the background of the Merriwell letter printed in the last issue.

The "Dear friend" is none other than myself and the signer, John, is Dr. John Hollenbach, retired professor of English and past Chairman of the Department at Hope College, a fine private liberal arts college in Holland, Michigan. In the summer of 1981 a number of alumna, myself included, spent three weeks in Europe, primarily in Vienna, then travelling through Poland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia. At some point Dr. Hollenbach and I got to talking about literature and especially about my work on William T. Adams. Eventually it shifted over to his boyhood heroes and I found myself a rapt listener as he recalled with great eloquence Alger and the Merriwell books. I then asked him to write a small article for our readers, either in the form of a letter or sketch, recalling over the long span of years his memories of Frank Merriwell. This, I felt, would be particularly interesting being from the viewpoint of an English professor of high merit and long standing. Hence, his entry.

I hope now the readers of our wonderful magazine have some idea of the background of Dr. Hollenbach's letter concerning a boyhood hero of interest to us all, especially our esteemed editor!

Most sincerely, Peter Walther

Dear Eddie,

The latest issue of Dime Novel Roundup arrived the other day and I was quite pleased to read through the interesting articles it contained. Randy Cox's experiences in the field of dime novel detective research captured my interest the most. Even more so was the inclusion of the latest bibliographic listing of Street and Smith's MAGNET DETECTIVE LIBRARY by Randy Cox.

Except for a few bothersome typographical errors and the fact that I could find no explanation to the initials APR in the abbreviations of sources referred to, I think Randy's methodical work displayed a tremendous amount of effort and research on his part, culminating in this significant contribution to the field of dime novel and detective fiction research.

Allen Hubin's extensive Bibliography of Crime Fiction, which has already gone through two editions, has reflected a certain "gray" area when it came to handling the Nick Carter stories and other dime novel detective works derived from MAGNET and NEW MAGNET LIBRARY. Hopefully, the fruits of Randy's research will be incorporated in a later edition of Hubin's work.

One thing that Randy pointed out was the fact that no one library had enough significant holdings of MAGNET or NEW MAGNET LIBRARY to enable him to examine each title. The present listing accounts for an examination of only about 46% of the items.

I believe that those of us dime novel collectors or early detective fiction collectors who do have relevant titles to elucidate on, should send the pertinent data to the Dime Novel Roundup in the form of letters with copies to Randy for a later reworking of the bibliographic listing. This would then allow those of us who wish to keep a running account of the latest information to do so, rather than wait for the final product of a revised edition.

From my own small collection, I can contribute the following information.

ML #426

Author: STARK, Inspector

Full title: The Western Ferret; or, The mysterious "O.E.L."

Source: The U. S. Catalog Supplement 1902-1905

ML #439

Author: STEWART, DICK

Full title: The "L" mystery; or, After the insurance swindlers.

Detective: Tony Clark

Date of publication is incorrectly printed as April 11, 1905

Source: Personal copy

ML #446

Author: CARTER, NICHOLAS

Full title: The Broadway cross; or A millionaire nemesis

Cover: As in ML #443

Source: Personal copy

ML #450

Author: CARTER, NICHOLAS

Full title: Doctor Quartz's quick move; or, Nick Carter at a disadvantage

Source: Personal copy

ML #462

Author: CARTER, NICHOLAS

Full title: Out of death's shadow; or, A case without a precedent

Cover: As in ML #443

Source: Personal copy

ML #467

Author: STARK, Inspector

Full title: The hand in red; or, The rajah's diamond

Detective: Burt Cromwell

Source: Personal copy

ML #469

Author: FORBES, WILLIAM G.

Full title: Fighting an unknown power; or, Ben Bradley and the Hindus

Detective: Ben Bradley

Source: Personal copy

ML #472

Author: CARTER, NICHOLAS

Full title: The man who was cursed; or, A midnight message

Source: Personal copy

I hope that this will stimulate others to send what information they have.

Best wishes, Victor A. Berch

Special Collections Librarian, Brandeis University

Dear Eddie:

Thank you much for your letter of 28 August. I can certainly under-

stand your state of shock over Denis's death. How grateful I am that we all saw him in Louisville and will remember him always appearing in the best of health with his rudy complexion and contagious joie de vivre. It was through the ROUNDUP that I learned of his death. He will be sorely missed. We will remember him as a group at the Atlanta meeting in some special way, perhaps dedicating our presentations to him or something appropriate.

Lydia S. Godfrey

A FEW ODD ANDS ENDS OF OLD DIME NOVELS — \$1.00 each

Some or all are brittle, but well worth the price. Add 75c postage for first, 25c for each additional item.

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